

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177636
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177636

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PBOR, US, JO, XF

SUBJECT: JORDAN AID FOR FY 79

REF: AMMAN 4245

1. VELIOTES, MONROE, AND I HAD USEFUL SESSION WITH AID
ON JULY 27. UNDER THE ZERO-BASED BUDGETING CONCEPT, AID
HAS BEEN MOVING TOWARDS THE MINIMUM OPTION OF DOLS 60
MILLION FOR SSA AND DOLS 125 MILLION FOR THE PREFERRED
OPTION. THE LATTER I EXPLAINED TO YOU. ONE OF THE FACTORS
THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS CONNECTION IS
THAT (STRICTLY FYI AND SENSITIVE SINCE IT COULD LEAK)
THERE COULD BE A DOWNWARD TREND PROJECTED IN SSA FOR EGYPT
AND ISRAEL, THEREBY AFFECTING ALL CONFRONTATION STATES
BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY RULE WE HAVE USED
EARLIER. THIS IS AID-PROPOSED TREND, NOT OURS.

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2. WHATEVER HAPPENS, NEA/ARN IS PROPOSING OR, RATHER, WILL
ANALYZE THE MERITS AND DISADVANTAGES OF FOUR OPTIONS: (1)
AID'S LOW OPTION; (2) AID'S PREFERRED OPTION; (3) THE DOLS
125 MILLION PACKAGE WITH BUDGET SUPPORT I OUTLINED TO YOU
EARLIER; (4) AND THE HIGH OPTION, INCLUDING AN IMPORTANT
MAQARIN DAM CONTRIBUTION. THIS IS THE ONLY FAIR WAY IN

WHICH TO GET WHAT YOU WANTED FOR MAQARIN TO A POLICY-MAKING
LEVEL AT THIS TIME, RATHER THAN A FEW MONTHS HENCE OR NEXT
YEAR.

3. BEFORE ROY DEPARTS, WE WILL BE REVIEWING WITH HIM ALL
THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE ZERO-BASED BUDGETING
OPERATION, AND WE WILL SEEK, INTER ALIA, SOME GUIDANCE
ON STRAIGHTLINING THE PROGRAMS OF THE CONFRONTATION STATES.

4. STRAIGHTLINING OR NOT, I AM FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT WE
CAN KEEP THE SSA AT DOLS 125 MILLION, EVEN THOUGH IT
WOULD APPEAR AS AN UPWARD TREND, BY ARGUING THAT BY AN
ACCIDENT OF THE CALENDAR 1979 IS THE TIME WHEN A MAJOR
ADDED OUTLAY FOR POTASH IS ESSENTIAL. VANCE

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